

INFORMATION REPORT

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PREPARED AND DISSEMINATED BY

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

COUNTRY

USSR

SUBJECT

Port Information: Batumi

NAVY review completed.

DATE DISTRIBUTED

20 August 1957

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT #

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

THE OFFICE OF NAVAL INTELLIGENCE FURNISHED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION TO CIA FOR IAC DISSEMINATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH 3 c OF NSCID #7 (DIO, 8ND No 147-57).7

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2. Alphabetical Designators In connection with information contained herein, specific points of interest are noted on photostatic copy of HO Chart No 4206 and referred to in this report by the following alphabetical designators:

- A. Pilot aboard
- B. Pilot discharged
- C. Buruntabiya Radio Beacon
- D. Salvage vessel
- E. Berth
- F. Shipyard
- G. Dock under repair
- H. Corvette
- I. Two 12-thousand-ton USSR tankers
- J. 10-thousand-ton USSR tanker
- K. Two-thousand-ton USSR freighter
- L. Five-thousand-ton USSR freighter
- M. ship
- N. Ten-thousand-ton USSR freighter
- O. Six-thousand-ton USSR freighter
- P. Small USSR tanker
- Q. Fishing vessels
- R. Beaches

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3. Approaches and Pilot Data

a merchant tanker which arrived in ballast and loaded a cargo of machine oil and spindle oil. the following chronological sequence of events during this call:

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Activity

Arrived
Pilot aboard
Moored at berth
Boarding party aboard
Boarding party ashore
Pumped ballast
Commenced loading
Completed loading
Boarding party aboard

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Activity

Boarding party ashore
Pilot aboard
Pilot discharged

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Pilotage is compulsory at subject port and is available both day and night. Pilot boarded vessel [redacted] He spoke English in addition to his native Russian, [redacted] and gave good service. A physician boarded the vessel with the pilot. On departure, pilot was discharged [redacted] Weather was clear and calm, with temperatures ranging from 8°C to 11°C. [redacted] vessel encountered strong northeast winds upon clearing the Dardanelles the first day in the Black Sea.

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4. Anchorage Vessel did not anchor at subject port other than using anchor to assist in berthing. 25X1 25X1

5. Harbor BA chart was used for navigational purposes and its accuracy was termed good. HO Chart No 4206 was used during the interview [redacted] radio beacon, Buruntabiya, [redacted] was inoperative. Submarine net referred to in previous reports was not in evidence. Buoy near [redacted] is equipped with radar reflector [redacted] 25X1 25X1 25X1

6. Controls The usual boarding party consisting of five members, one of which was a female [redacted] boarded the vessel at the berth upon its arrival. No search was conducted nor were any items sealed. Only passports were collected and passes issued to the crew. A uniformed guard wearing overcoat, green epaulets, and fur cap and sidearms was posted near the foot of the gangway for the purpose of checking shore passes. A policeman was posted at gate to pier area. No surveillance boat was observed during the call at subject port. Vessel was allowed to put own boat in water for the purpose of drills, upkeep, etc, but was required to hoist it aboard before dark. 25X1 25X1

7. Harbor Craft [redacted] vessel was assisted in mooring at berth by one very old tug described [redacted] as a coal burner, black hull, white wheel house, and which gave poor service. One salvage vessel was observed at designator D. [redacted] this vessel as a new ship, [redacted] Vessel had 50-ton derrick aft with 18" blocks, and appeared to be in good repair and freshly painted. 25X1 25X1 25X1

8. Berth Vessel was assisted in mooring to berth, designator E, by tug referred to above and by using starboard anchor. Sketch of berth is furnished [redacted] Upon arrival, vessel discharged 800 metric tons ballast and tanks were inspected by female tank inspector. Vessel commenced loading spindle oil and machine oil [redacted] having loaded 4057 metric tons in 47 hours, 10 minutes for an average rate of 86.026 metric tons per hour. This rate was considered very slow [redacted] Ship's crew made shoreside connections and used small derrick to hoist 6" hose over the rail of the vessel. During the course of loading, it was determined that vessel needed more cargo than originally called for and the agent had to wire Moscow for permission to load additional cargo. The affirmative answer was received within two hours. Vessel loaded an unknown quantity of drinking water while at berth through a 3" canvas hose. Quality of water was very good and no treatment was required. The source of the water was unknown and it was presumed that gravity was the method of delivery. Boiler water was also available but not utilized. 25X1 25X1 25X1 25X1

9. Construction At the [redacted] shipyard, designator F, three or four patrol craft of wooden construction, 100' in length, were being constructed keel up. No further details were observed. Dock at designator G was in process of being repaired, as reported in previous reports.

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

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10. Naval Vessels [] a USSR "corvette" at designator H. It was a flush-deck vessel, 1500 tons, mounted no guns or torpedo tubes. It departed subject port on 31 Mar 57. 25X1
11. Merchant Vessels During call at subject port, [] the following ships at designators listed below: 25X1
- I. Two USSR tankers, 12 thousand ton
 - J. 10-thousand-ton USSR tanker 25X1
 - K. Two-thousand-ton USSR freighter
 - L. Five-thousand-ton USSR freighter
 - M. [] loading gas-oil [] 25X1
 - N. 10-thousand-ton USSR freighter
 - O. Six-thousand-ton USSR freighter discharging coal
 - P. Small USSR tanker - departed 31 Mar 57
 - Q. Fishing vessels
12. Shore Activities The entire crew was given passes under the half-pass system and nearly all participated. Some visited the International Club of the Intourist Hotel where they found the prices of food and drink very reasonable. Dancing was available and they described the establishment as "clean and nice."
13. Miscellaneous [] during call at subject port loud-speakers were being utilized for the purpose of broadcasting music and speeches over the entire town. Duration of the broadcasts was from sunrise to sunset. [] there was talk of an airfield west of town but did not observe any aircraft, nor did he have further details concerning this airfield. He walked from berth of vessel to beach, designator R, and no restrictions were imposed, except in the vicinity of Burin-Tariya Fort nor allowed to proceed further west in direction of purported airfield. [] allowed to take pictures freely and commented that the park near the beach was "pretty and nice." 25X1
- [Comment []: Restrictions seem to have been lifted materially in subject port, especially in the fact that photography was permitted; however, attention is invited to the restrictions imposed referred to in paragraph 13 above.] 25X1

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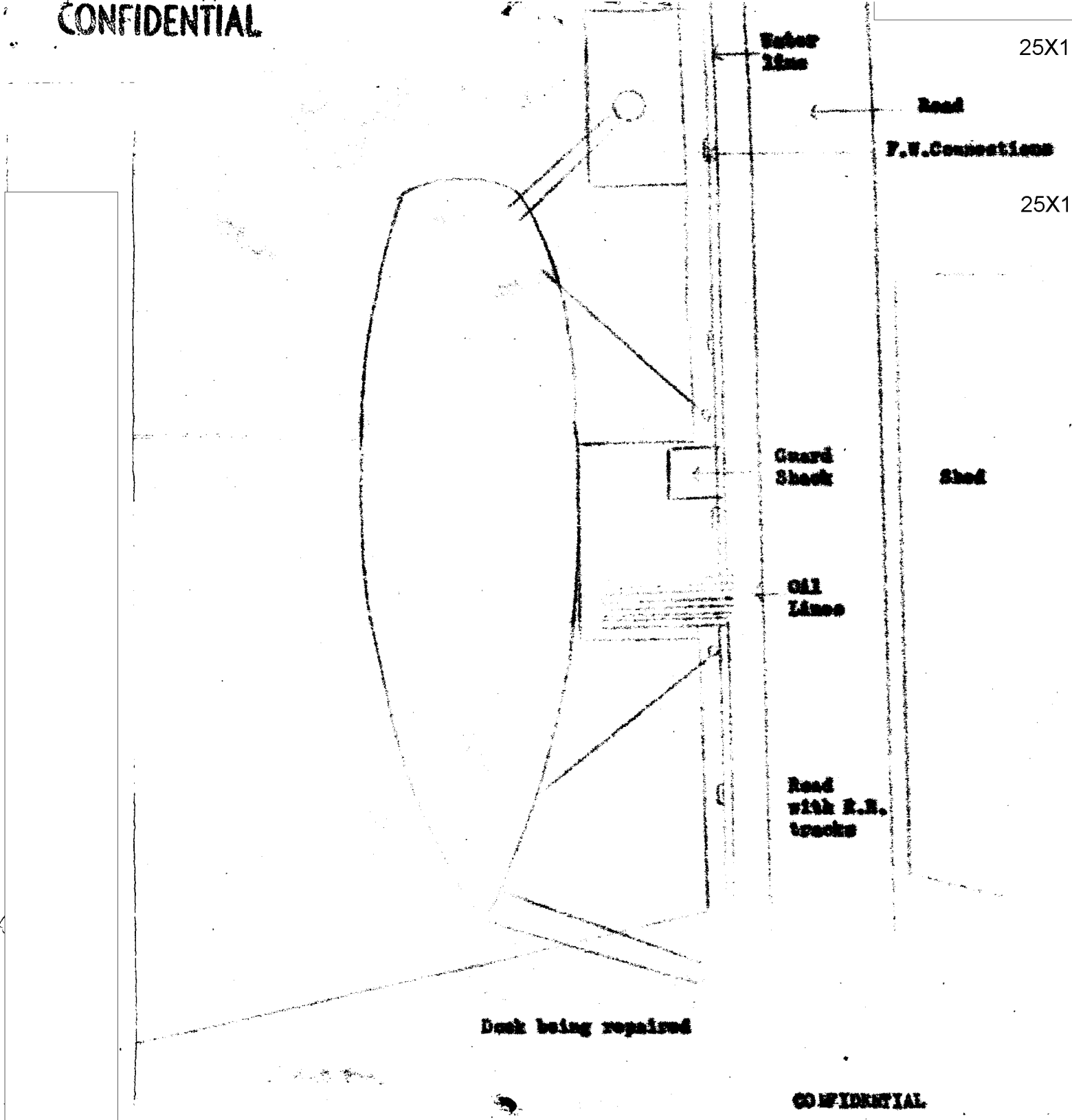
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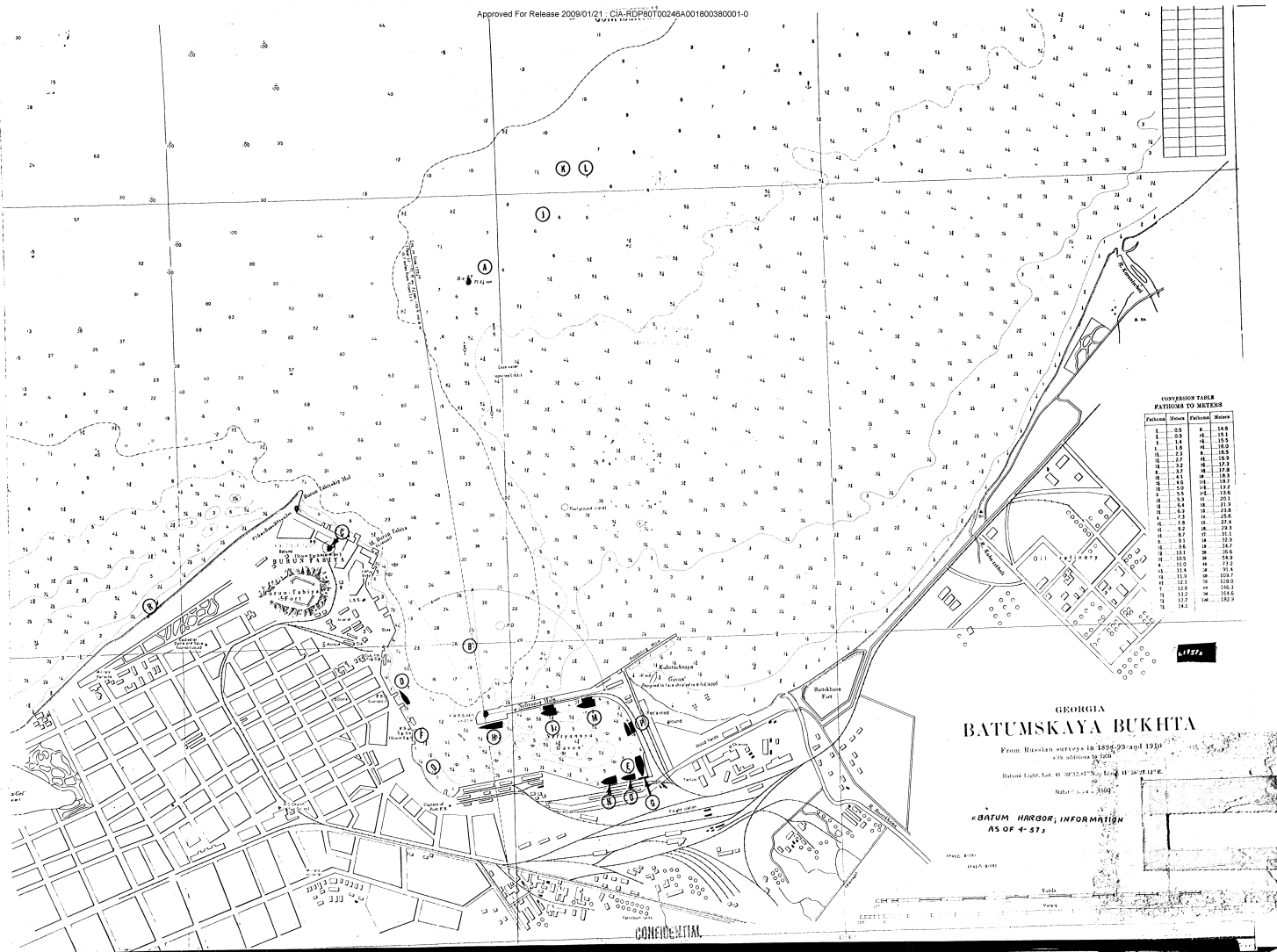
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GEORGIA
BATUMSKAYA BUKHTA

From Russian surveys in 1894-99 and 1930
with additions to 1950

Batum Light, Lat. 41° 30' 12.5" N., Long. 41° 30' 17.5" E.

BATUM HARBOR, INFORMATION
AS OF 4-57

1:50,000
1:50,000

Scale

Scale